

# Garden of the Gods Wilderness Quest

## Quest Description:

Welcome to the Garden of the Gods Quest! Garden of the Gods Wilderness was designated as a wilderness area by the Illinois Wilderness Act of 1990 and totals 3,996 acres. It is home to massive sandstone rock formations and a thick hardwood forest sprinkled with moss and lichen. The caves, canyons, bluffs and ridges were home to indigenous people and eventually European settlers. Navigating through this terrain was made easier by naming or identifying rock formations or other features on the landscape. Some of the names have come and gone, while others have been passed on for generations.

As you hike on this loop trail, attempt to name the rock formations you find along the way...what do you see in the rocks? Some of the "known" rock formations that can be found in other places at Garden of the Gods are Camel Rock, Monkey Face, Table Rock, and Anvil Rock.

If you continue straight at the trail junction, you will end up at Indian Point, a rock bluff overlooking the landscape below and the horizon in the distance. What natural features of the landscape do you notice from this hawk's-eye view? What man-made features do you recognize? Consider sketching the horizon, journaling your rock names or photographing your time in the Garden of the Gods Wilderness.



### Supplies Needed:

1. Map
2. Water
3. Snack
4. Journal
5. Pencil



**Trail Name and Marker:** Indian Point Trail (108G - Hiker Only)

**Trail Difficulty:** Moderate to Difficult

**Trail Length:** 1.75 mile loop

**Travel Time:** 2 hours

**Trail Type:** Dirt/gravel

**Best Season:** Winter, Spring, Early Summer, Fall

**Possible Hazards:** Loose rocks, tree roots, poison ivy, poisonous snakes, and trail can be slippery when wet. *Use extreme caution when on or near high cliffs.*

**Wilderness Ethics:** Plan Ahead and Prepare for your trip. Pack In/ Pack Out, Leave what you find, Travel on durable surfaces, respect wildlife and other visitors.

### Indian Point Trailhead access:

From Harrisburg, take Highway 145 south to Highway 34. Continue on 34 South for 5 miles. Turn east onto Karbers Ridge Road and travel 2.5 miles to Forest Road. Turn north onto Forest Road for 1.5 miles to recreation entrance road. Turn left into Backpacker Parking Lot for trailhead access.

### In Case of Emergency: 911

Harrisburg Medical Center  
100 Warren Tuttle Drive  
Harrisburg, IL 62946  
(618)253-7671

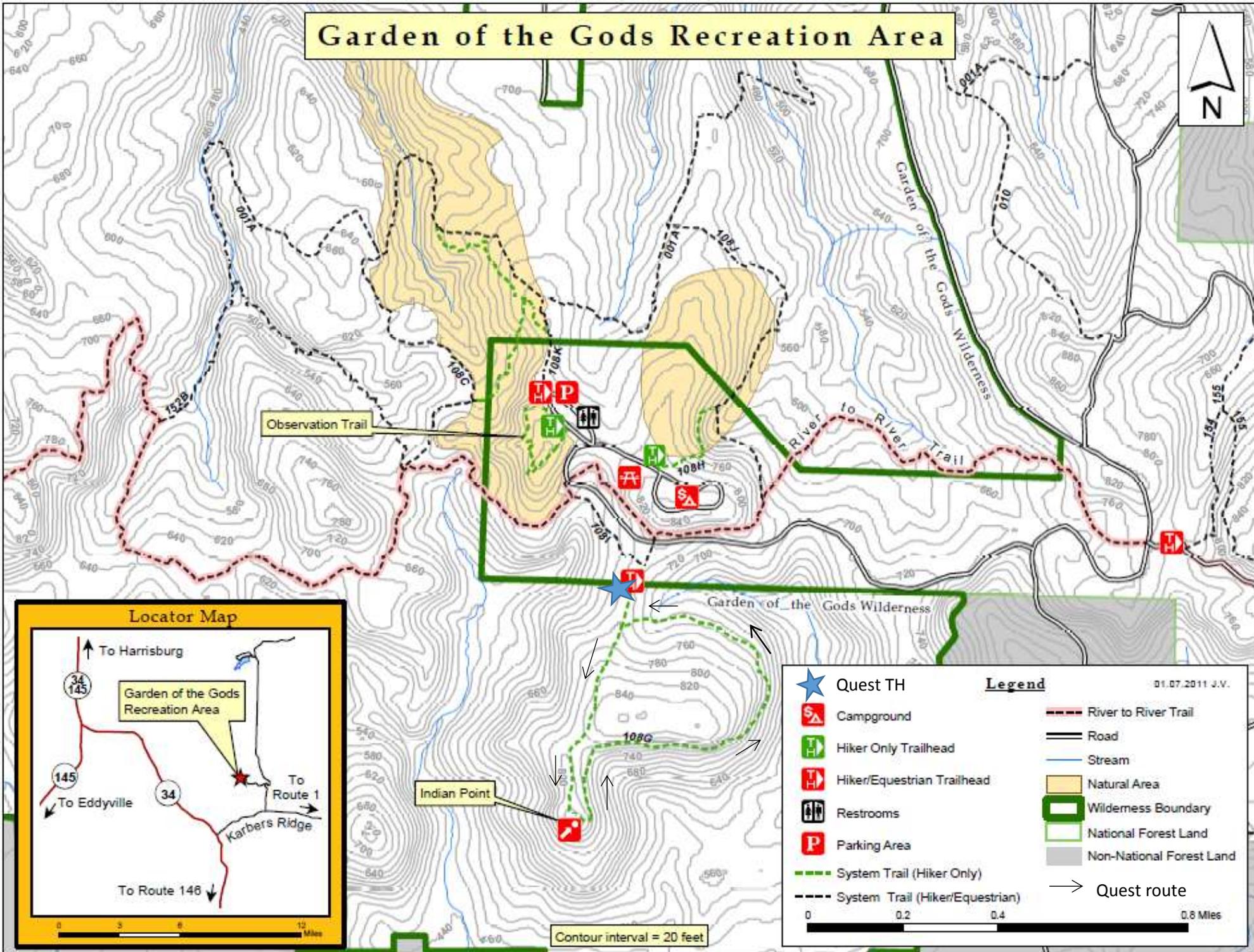
### For More information:

Hidden Spring Ranger District  
602 N. First Street  
Vienna, IL 62995  
(618)658-2111  
[www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee](http://www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee)



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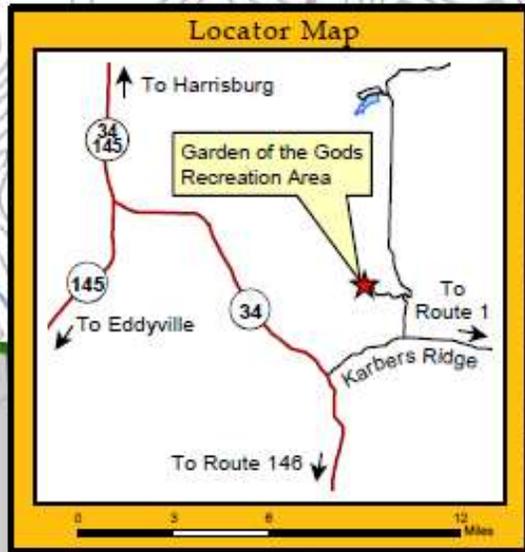
# Garden of the Gods Recreation Area



Observation Trail

Indian Point

Contour interval = 20 feet



01.07.2011 J.V.

**Legend**

- Quest TH
- Campground
- Hiker Only Trailhead
- Hiker/Equestrian Trailhead
- Restrooms
- Parking Area
- System Trail (Hiker Only)
- System Trail (Hiker/Equestrian)
- River to River Trail
- Road
- Stream
- Natural Area
- Wilderness Boundary
- National Forest Land
- Non-National Forest Land
- Quest route

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles